



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 600

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HUD ISSUES INFORMATION ON COUNTERFEIT ELECTRIC CIRCUIT BREAKERS

JEFFERSON CITY---The Missouri Public Service Commission's Manufactured Housing and Modular Units Program has received important information regarding counterfeit electric circuit breakers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Manufactured Housing Programs. HUD reports that this equipment was distributed by Scott Electric Company.

The PSC's Manufactured Housing and Modular Units Program is providing this information to manufacturers and retail dealers of manufactured homes in Missouri.

HUD advisory states:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Manufactured Housing Programs, has recently become aware that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has required the recall of the above-referenced products. Certain circuit breakers labeled "Square D" are counterfeit and might not trip when they are overloaded, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

The counterfeit circuit breakers include Square D QO-series models 115, 120, 130, 160, 215, 230, 260, 1515, and 1520. Actual Square D circuit breakers have (a) the amp rating written on the handle in white paint on the front of the breaker; (b) on the side of the breaker, where wire terminal screw is located, the arc shoot opening should have squared corners with the bottom edge of the opening angled up; (c) the mounting clip should be yellow chromate with half of the top of the clip visible; and (d) the Square D insignia should be molded onto the breaker. Any Square D breaker that does not match this description could be counterfeit. The counterfeit units were sold through Scott Electric Co., a distributor with locations throughout Pennsylvania and Texas, from May 2005 through May 2006. More information on this recall is available on the CPSC site at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07036.html>

Based on the description of the problems provided by CPSC, these products would meet the criteria of an Imminent Safety Hazard or Serious Defect [24 CFR 3282.7(p) and (ff)] if they have been installed in manufactured housing units.